FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 MAY 1984

Gulf Crisis

'Naval Targets' Attacked — Iraqi warplanes attacked two "large naval targets" southeast of Khark Island on 24 May, scoring effective hits, a military spokesman reported in an announcement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. The attack was in accordance with previous Iraqi warnings, the spokesman asserted, and was designed to tighten the blockade of Khark Island and the other Iranian ports in the Gulf.

Syrian Diplomacy — Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' arrived in Tehran on 23 May with a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, IRNA disclosed. "Well-informed sources" in Tehran cited by SANA said Al-Asad's message stressed the need to avoid any expansion of the war and urged a relaxation of the tension between Iran and the Arab Gulf states. In an arrival statement reported by Damascus television, Khaddam stressed that all parties should act to prevent any development that would serve "imperialism and Zionism." Syrian officials later held a meeting with the Iranian president, according to SANA. Syrian sources cited by Radio Monte Carlo referred to "propitious signs" indicating that the Syrian efforts in Tehran were completely successful.

A commentary by the Syrian newspaper *TISHRIN*, reported by Damascus radio, stated that Syria seeks to prevent more parties from becoming involved in the conflict and to minimize the impact of the war on "our brothers in the Gulf" and "our friends" in Iran. Damascus radio stated that Syria opposes any "aggression" against Arab Gulf states not involved in the war.

Arab-Japanese Talks — During talks between Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and the Arab League delegation currently visiting Tokyo, the Japanese prime minister promised to inform his government of Iraq's concern over continued import of Iranian oil by Japanese companies and to request these companies to curtail their contracts with Iran, INA disclosed. At a press conference held by Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, Abe urged Iraq to exercise "maximum self-restraint" to avoid an escalation of the Gulf war, according to KYODO.

Lebanon

The Syrians have installed new SAM bases at Turbul, south of Riyaq, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon announced in a report on Syrian reinforcements in the Al-Biqa' valley. In the south four Israeli soldiers were wounded by a roadside bomb explosion south of Sidon, Jerusalem radio reported. An IDF soldier was also kidnapped in the same area, according to Beirut radio. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Rashid Karami stressed that his government can no longer remain indifferent to the separation of southern Lebanon and the western Al-Biqa' from Beirut, adding that he will summon ambassadors of the five permanent Security Council members to outline Lebanon's objections to Israel's "abnormal and inhuman practices" in the south. Karami, who was speaking after a Cabinet meeting in Bikfayya in a statement broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio, also revealed that the Cabinet has agreed to "unify" the Lebanese news media, which cannot be permitted to continue operating in the current "unsatisfactory" way. The Kuwaiti paper *AS-SIYASAH* reported that a new radio sponsored by the Sunni Al-Maqasid charity association will soon begin broadcasting from Beirut and that the Amal Movement is also planning to establish its own station.

Israel

Indictments were submitted to the Jerusalem District Court against 25 people suspected of belonging to the Jewish "underground," Jerusalem radio reported. Six of the detainees face murder charges and another 16 are accused of attempted murder. Some of the detainees discussed the motives for their actions in an interview with the daily *MA'ARIV*, asserting that they decided to attack West Bank mayors belonging to the "National Guidance Committee" in 1980 because of the failure of the Israeli authorities, particularly former Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, to defend Jewish settlers against Palestinian terrorism and political agitation.

Egypt

Israel's policy and practices violate the letter and spirit of the Camp David accords and obstruct peace in the Middle East, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali asserted in an *AL-AHRAM* interview reported by MENA. He also confirmed that an exchange of ambassadors between Cairo and Moscow is merely a "matter of time," disclosing that Egypt has no economic or political preconditions for the resumption of normal diplomatic relations.

PLO Affairs

A Fatah Central Committee statement on the recent Fatah-Soviet talks in Moscow said the two sides agreed on the importance of an early PNC meeting, adding that the Soviet officials pledged to continue efforts to normalize PLO-Syrian relations, KUNA reported. Meanwhile, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir told a news conference in Jordan that Fatah hopes to hold the PNC session in July, according to Amman radio. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who is expected in Amman on 26 May for talks with King Husayn, left Jidda for Abu Dhabi on 24 May, SPA disclosed.

Libya

Libya has placed an order with a Belgian firm for two "medium-sized" nuclear power stations, Paris radio disclosed.

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Mujahidin Raid Destroys 32 Soviet Aircraft in Bagram

NC231900 Paris AFP in English 1820 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Islamabad, May 23 (AFP) — Afghan insurgents today claimed to have destroyed 20 Soviet helicopters and 12 fighter jets in a May 12 night-time raid on an air base in Bagram, halfway between Kabul and the Panjsher Valley. If confirmed, the attack would be the most spectacular action by the Afghan resistance since the Red Army entered the country in 1979.

A spokesman for the Hezb-e Islami Party said 30 resistance fighters fired 16 ground-to-ground missiles, 15 rounds of mortar and 25 cannon shells at the base from about 2.5 kilometers (1.6 miles) away.

Western diplomats here had said earlier that they were aware of the raid but knew only of three planes destroyed.

The Afghan spokesman said Soviet fire-fighting airplanes took six hours to put out the blazes started by the attack. He said three tanks and a generator were also destroyed.

In another development, a source close to the Afghan resistance, in Peshawar, Pakistan, near the Afghan-Pakistani border, said a top foreign affairs official had defected to Peshawar from Kabul with his family a few days ago. Abdul Majid Mangal, a former charge d'affaires in Moscow who had been in charge of relations with the United Nations, was said to be the highest-ranking Afghan official to defect this year.

94 Mujahidin, Soviet General Die in Ambush

GF231728 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 May 84 p 1

[Text] An Afghan guerilla unit captured a Soviet general in an ambush in northern Afghanistan and executed him when Russian forces mounted a rescue attempt, the European representative of the United Afghan Resistance said on Friday.

Homayoun Mad Rouh, representing all the moderate Afghan guerrilla groups, said in a communique that all 94 guerrillas involved in the ambush were killed by the Soviet forces. The dead included the commander of the guerrilla group, Mohammad Rahimullah.

The communique said the guerrillas — helped by four Muslim deserters from the Soviet Army — captured the general and other Soviets early in April during an ambush on a convoy near (Gortaipi) in the Konduz Valley, some 30 miles south of the Soviet border on the Amu River.

Soviets Encounter Resistance in Panjsher Valley

WA231720 Paris LIBERATION in French 10 May 84 p 30

[Article by Beatrix Baconnier: "Afghanistan: Slow Soviet Advance in Panjsher"]

[Text] Panjsher VII is the largest operation since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. According to Western experts in Islamabad, the last Soviet offensive launched on 21 April against the main stronghold of the Afghan resistance held by Masud surpasses all previous six in its scope. Eighteen days after their arrival in the south of the valley, the Soviet troops, advancing more slowly than anticipated, had reached only the middle of the valley. A lack of reliable news makes it extremely difficult to evaluate the military situation.

Since the end of April the Soviet-Afghan troops have reinforced their bases in (Anawah), (Bozokah), and Rokhah. A bridgehead was established in Khenjan, where the trail leading to the Panjsher begins. According to some reports, two hundred members of the resistance, coming as reinforcements from Kunar and Kuhestan, were killed on 2 May, when they were surprised in open country by a helicopter patrol. The Red Army tried to surround the valley, but on 2 May the Kuhestan and Andarab passes remained open.

Although since the start of the offensive several tanks from armored divisions have been destroyed by mines, Soviet losses thus far do not appear to have been significant. The number of 20,000 Soviet soldiers engaged in the operation, as suggested by the Pentagon, is judged excessive by some military experts, who estimate it to be 12,000 to 15,000.

There are few Afghan troops, for they have been thinned out by desertions. Only those commandos who were certain of themselves, namely those from KHAD, a hundred or so of which participated in the offensive, came up to the valley.

It has been a month since Jami'at-e Islami in Peshawar, Pakistan, has received a message in Masud's handwriting. Messengers have been sent to Panjsher to bring back another long-awaited message, but so far without result. The spokesmen of the resistance in Peshawar continue to insist that the young commander is in the valley with his men. Western diplomats suggest that other conclusions can be drawn from the rumors circulating in the bazaars of Kabul — for example, that the young military chief is today within a three days' walk of his valley, on the Pol-e Khomri plain in the north of the country, where he has gathered the heads of the resistance operating along the Salang Pass (between Kabul and the Soviet border) in order to organize a new military attack on convoys.

As for the Soviet and Afghan Communists, they circulate the most incredible reports among the foreign community of Islamabad: Masud is probably in Pakistan; he is wounded and the doctors are treating him in a secret hideout in Afghanistan; he is in Kabul and works for the government now.

Wherever he is, it appears that the tactics he employed during the six previous Panjsher offensives are again being followed to the letter. The resistance has withdrawn into nearby valleys and mountains and has begun a counterattack, notably on the city of Bozurak, in the middle of the valley, where the Soviets have installed a fortified camp.

The Soviet Command, according to diplomats, is preparing for a long campaign in the Panjsher. They have parachuted materials and brought reinforcements directly from the Soviet Union, and have set up large-scale operations in the valley, where patrols

come and go between garrisons established in (Anawah), Rokhah, and (Bozokah).

Although Masud is silent, the resistance has not given up. He may well be planning, when the moment is favorable, to pit his guerrillas against the troops who have occupied the valley.

Karmal Thanks Romania's Ceausescu for Congratulations

AU211728 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 17 May 84 p 5

[Text] To Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania:

On behalf of the people of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in conveying to you, and through you to the friendly Romanian people, our sincere thanks for your warm congratulations on the occasion of the anniversary of the April Revolution.

I am convinced that the relations of friendship and cooperation between our peoples and parties will continuously expand and develop to the mutual benefit of our peoples and in the interests of peace and security in the world.

With best wishes for personal health and happiness, and for the progress of the friendly Romanian people,

Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan

'Maoist' Group Leaders Tried for Subversion

LD231929 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] An open trial of Dr Mohammad Yonos, given name Salem, and Sayed 'Abdol Hafiz, given name Salahoddin, members of the leadership of a Maoist group, Rehaii, who were tried for counterrevolutionary crimes by the DRA Special Revolutionary Court, ended today with the passing of sentences on the accused.

Speaking to a BAKHTAR correspondent, a spokesman for the Special Revolutionary Court said that Dr Mohammad Yonos, son of Mohammad Akbar, resident of Panjsher district and former lecturer at the Faculty of Science, confessed to the court his unlawful visit to Beijing via Pakistan, and receipt of $200,000 from the Chinese leaders for performing subversive and other acts inside Afghanistan. Incriminating documents and evidence relating to his crimes have been filed against the accused. Dr Yonos, in front of spectators in the open court, confessed and accepted responsibility.

Sayed 'Abdol Hafiz, given name Salahoddin, not only confessed his counterrevolutionary crimes but, during his statement to the court, unveiled the crimes of a group linked with the Pakistani militarists and Chinese hegemonists. He added that he and Dr Yonos were leaders of the group and had purchased a number of weapons which they distributed to counterrevolutionary elements inside Afghanistan. The money they received from Chinese hegemonists was used for the purchase of assorted weapons.

Sayed 'Abdol Hafiz gave details of the group's organization and connections in his investigation papers as well as in court. The judicial delegation, in light of revolutionary law and justice in defending the interests of the broad masses of workers, after consideration of the cases put forward by the prosecution and defense, and in the course of hearing from the prosecutor and the accused during two trials, announced their decision under the name of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan as follows:

Dr Mohammad Yonos, son of Mohammad Akbar, 42 years old, ex-lecturer of the Faculty of Science, resident of Panjsher district, accused of working for the Rehaii group, Kabul Committee, illegally visiting China through Pakistan, taking part in negotiations with the Chinese Maoist authorities, accepting a sum of $200,000 from the Chinese hegemonists and utilizing it against the interests of the toiling people of Afghanistan through subversion and the distribution and use of arms against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan by the members of the Rehaii group, was convicted and sentenced to death according to law. This sentence is enforceable in accordance with Article 58 of the DRA Basic Principles after the approval of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium.

Sayed 'Abdol Hafiz, son of Sayed Fayzollah, 37 years old, married, teacher, inhabitant of Takhr province, accused of organizing the Rehaii group in Takhar Province, establishing the links between the group members in the Takhar and Kabul provinces, being a leader member of the so-called Kabul Committee of the Rehaii group, unlawfully visiting Pakistan and taking money from the group leadership against the interests of the people of Afghanistan, forging documents, evading the military service, and purchasing, distributing and using arms against the DRA, was also convicted. However, since the accused, during investigation and interrogation, cooperated with the officials in charge of the investigations in exposing other members of the group, he was given judicial compassion and, in accordance with Article 200 of the Penal Code, his sentence was reduced from that of death to life imprisonment.

Gandhi Discusses Arms Race, Country's Ties to USSR

AU221303 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 21 May 84 pp 1, 6

[Excerpts] Indira Gandhi, prime minister of India and chairman of the Indian National Congress-Indira Party, received Krasimir Ivandzhiyski, *RABOTNICHESKO DELO* special correspondent in Delhi, and granted him an interview. [date of interview not given]

Ivandzhiyski: At the beginning of the year you stated the following: "India's unity is threatened from the inside as well as from the outside." Could you describe the basic destabilizing factors in this connection?

Gandhi: In the first place I must point out that the arms escalation in our area as well as throughout the world is creating tension and destabilization. The striving to establish blocs continues — blocs which are likely to become pawns in the implementation of foreign interests.

This is why the people of India must be united. Should we deviate from this principle we will create opportunities for foreign interests. Division and the pursuit of narrowminded and opportunistic goals by certain groups create nothing but opportunities for the activities of the destabilizing forces.

Ivandzhiyski: Mrs Gandhi, the Bulgarian people are following with respect and attention the consistent efforts devoted by your government and country to the consolidation of peace and cooperation in Asia and throughout the world. You are at present the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, which joins together approximately 100 countries of the world. How would you describe the basic problems in the development of international relations and the chief methods of their settlement?

Gandhi: The basic and most topical international problem is the arms race and the quantitative as well as qualitative accumulation of nuclear weapons. A total of $700 billion is being spent annually for this purpose. This is a totally unjustified squandering of resources which could be devoted to peaceful goals — the elimination of starvation, health improvement for millions of people on our planet, and so forth.

Second, I would like to point out the interference and interventions in new areas and zones of the world and the expansion of the network of military bases.

Third, there are the unresolved international controversies and conflicts which are permanently threatening international security and cooperation.

Fourth, I would like to mention the steadily increasing discrepancy in the economic development of individual countries throughout the world.

As chairman of the nonaligned states I will point out that it is particularly necessary today to promote greater cooperation among developed and developing states. I will also refer to the urgent need of removing trade barriers in the international exchange of goods. In these sectors the governments and peoples of all countries, regardless of their sociopolitical systems, must cooperate and assist each other. I am talking about creating a common awareness for settling problems of global significance.

Ivandzhiyski: Mrs Gandhi, I would like to elaborate on the aforementioned question. In certain neighbor countries of India, especially in Pakistan, we are observing an increase in armament. The establishment of foreign military bases already exists and is being further planned. Is this not a source of concern for India from the geopolitical and strategic points of view?

Gandhi: Yes, it is a cause of concern. This circumstance forces us to spend our currency on additional defense means, while we have many other more urgent needs which I have already mentioned. I am talking about the Indian Ocean area, where not only conventional but also nuclear arms are being deployed for the purpose of exerting military-political as well as economic pressure on India.

Ivandzhiyski: Bulgaria followed with great interest India's steps in outer space within the framework of the joint USSR-Indian space flight. Would you like to dwell more broadly on this aspect of Indian-Soviet cooperation?

Gandhi: We are proud of the young Indian cosmonaut who took part in the USSR-Indian flight. We greatly appreciate the Soviet gesture which made the flight possible.

I would like to note that India has its own space program that is fully dedicated to progress and development. We have satellites which serve television, telecommunications, and weather forecasting. They maintain connection with hundreds and thousands of villages. Our most recent satellite — INSAT-1-B — was launched with foreign cooperation. We plan to develop our own launching equipment in the next 5 years. It will facilitate the launching of geostationary satellites.

The Soviet Union has always regarded Indian national interests with sympathy and understanding. It has helped India in difficult moments and periods and cooperated with us in the construction of our industries. The Indian-Soviet trade exchange is growing both in scope and variety. Characteristic of Indian-Soviet cooperation is the fact that it is an important factor for peace that is not directed against other states.

Rasgotra Praises Achievements of Pakistan Visit

BK231643 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 May 84

[Excerpts] The current round of talks between India and Pakistan ended in Islamabad today after achieving considerable progress in understanding each other's viewpoints on their respective drafts of treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation and the nonaggression pact.

Talking to newsmen on his arrival at Delhi airport, Mr Rasgotra described the visit as very good. He said the two sides are now engaged in clause-by-clause examination of the drafts.

Police Fire on Bombay Crowd; 8 Killed, 14 Injured

BK240306 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr P. Venkatasubbiah, is leaving for Bombay today. According to an official spokesman in New Delhi, Mr Venkatasubbiah will visit the riot-affected areas and hold discussions with the state chief minister, Mr Vasantrao Patil. He will also discuss relief measures taken up by the state government for the affected people.

In Bombay, police opned fire yesterday to disperse a big mob that attacked the Trombay police station. Eight persons were killed and 14 injured. The special secretary home, Mr Chougule, told the Bombay correspondent that sporadic incidents of stone-throwing, arson, and looting have also been reported from parts of the central, northern, and western suburbs of the city since last night. He said prompt police action last night averted damage to property and life at a number of places.

The situation in Bhiwandi, Thane, and Kalyan is reported to be peaceful.

Additional Army Units Deployed

BK231619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] In Maharashtra, the overall situation in the central part of Bombay and eastern suburb is under control, though tense. The special home secretary, Mr B.K. Chougule, told newsmen in Bombay today that additional Army units have been deployed in Bombay to ease tension. He said during the day two persons were stabbed at (Vikroli) and one at (Dongri), who later succumbed to his injury. Dusk-to-dawn curfew has been imposed in some parts of central Bombay and eastern suburbs and at eight other places as a precautionary measure.

A police head constable was killed today in a mob attack at (Kinavali) village in Shahpur Tehsil [subdistrict] in Thane District. Earlier, the head constable opened fire and killed a miscreant when a mob of over 500 people attacked a weekly bazaar at the village and started looting it. The mob turned its fury on the constable and killed him on the spot.

The situation in Bhiwandi is peaceful. The day curfew was relaxed for over 6 hours today. No incident has been reported from the district during the last 3 days. The police yesterday recovered 10 decomposed bodies at Bhiwandi. The state government has set up a number of relief camps at Bhiwandi and Thane.

2,500 Soldiers Involved

BK240130 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 24 May 84

[Mark Tully's report in the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] On the 7th day of communal violence in Bombay, the Indian Army has moved in another battalion of troops. The general in charge has given his first news conference since the army was called in to fight and contain the Hindu-Muslim violence. Mark Tully reports from Bombay:

[Begin Tully recording] General Rao said there were 2,500 soldiers involved in restoring law and order in Bombay and the outlying towns where Hindu-Muslim violence has taken place. One more battalion is on its way to Bombay. The general also announced that the Army had moved into three new areas of the city. This morning military trucks were patrolling the city center itself. The general could not say whether more troops would be required nor how long the army would be involved. He stressed that the Army had been asked to help maintain law and order by the civilian authorities. During the day, there has been more sporadic violence, but no major clashes between the two communities have been reported. The city center is tense. There was panic this morning when an unfounded rumor of a clash spread from the commercial area. The streets of central Bombay have been empty again by this city's standards, (?although) public transport has been running and offices were functioning. The hospital, where 30 victims of yesterday's stabbing incidents were taken, stopped all nonemergency operations. There was a chronic shortage of blood, but hospital authorities say the donors are now coming forward. The chief minister of Maharashtra, Mr Vasantrao Patil, reviewed the situation with members of his cabinet, but it is not known whether they have taken any new decisions. [end Tully recording]

250 Arrested To Date in Hyderabad; Curfew Extended

BK231633 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] The situation in the curfew-bound areas of the old city of Hyderabad remained peaceful, barring 2 incidents in which 2 persons received injury; 250 persons have been arrested so far. Curfew will remain in force until Friday morning with 4-hour relaxation from 0500 tomorrow morning. In 18 police station areas, the curfew will be relaxed for only 2 hours. There will be no relaxation in 13 localities in 4 police station areas.

3 Killed in Shooting in Punjab Marketplace

BK240318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] In Punjab, three persons were killed and four injured when some miscreants opened fire in a marketplace in village Balbara in Patiala District last evening. The miscreants, about half a dozen in number, came in a car and, after firing indiscriminately, are reported to have fled. Police reinforcements rushed to the area immediately on receipt of the information and have launched a massive search for the culprits.

The chief whip of the Lok Dal parliamentary party, Mr Rajesh Kumar Singh, has appealed to the Akali leaders to shun violence and work for restoring peace and communal harmony in Punjab. In a statement in New Delhi, he expressed concern over the killing of innocent persons and urged the Akali leaders to solve the issue amicably.

Curfew Extended in Mansa

BK231634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] The curfew in Mansa town in Bhatinda District has been extended up to Saturday morning with a daily 6-hour relaxation. It will be relaxed from 0600 to 1000 and 1600 to 1800. No untoward incident took place during relaxation in curfew this morning.

Kashmir Ruling Party Splits Into Two Groups

BK231255 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] The National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir formally split today with the dissidents expelling the party president [Chief Minister] Dr Farooq Abdullah for 6 years. It elected in his place his sister, Begum Khalida Shah. The decision was taken at the delegates session of the dissident National Conference in Srinagar today. The session also dismissed the working committee nominated by Dr Farooq Abdullah and also officebearers of the party at the state and provincial level.

Sikkim Minister Said Victim of Gandhi 'Steamroller'

BK211530 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 14 May 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Outrageous Dismissal"]

[Text] The dismissal of Mr Nar Bahadur Bhandari as chief minister of Sikkim is a deplorable case of central high-handedness. Even if it is sought to be technically justified by the special constitutional provision on Sikkim embodied in Article 371 F(g), it is an improper use of power to satisfy narrow partisan interests. Mr Bhandari will probably challenge the constitutionality of the action, which must be left to the Supreme Court to determine. But even if the action is upheld, what is narrowly legal is not necessarily legitimate. The spirit of the Constitution has been grossly violated. Three reasons have been given for sacking Mr Bhandari: that his demands for electoral reform were dangerous, that he had lost his majority, and that he was corrupt. None of these is convincing. Even assuming all three to be true, the remedies lay elsewhere. The inescapable conclusion is that Mrs Gandhi decided to steamroller the only Congress (I) chief minister who owed nothing to her patronage. She did not want him in office during the forthcoming state election in October, since he had threatened to scrap his Congress (I) affiliation unless she conceded his demands. For this short-sighted objective, she has set a dangerous precedent that will have grave repercussions in a sensitive region, aggravate Centre-state relations, and again call in question the role of the governor as a mere agent of the centre.

Mr Bhandari has been campaigning against the existing electoral framework in Sikkim, where 12 of the 32 seats are reserved for Bhutia-Lepchas, one for the monasteries and two for scheduled castes, while 17 seats are unreserved. Since Nepalis constitute 70 per cent of Sikkim's population and Bhutia-Lepchas only 30 per cent, Mr Bhandari argues that too many seats have been reserved for the latter. He wants 13 seats be reserved for the Nepalis too. On the face of it this would serve little purpose, as all the 17 unreserved seats were won by Nepalis at the last election. But Mr Bhandari wants to safeguard the Nepalis against immigrants from other parts of India, who could in time alter the demographic structure. He also wants citizenship to be given to 30,000 stateless persons of Nepali origin to buttress his ethnic support. One can disagree with Mr Bhandari. But this is certainly not sufficient grounds on which to dismiss a chief minister. Article 371 f(g) gives the governor of Sikkim "special responsibility for peace and for an equitable arrangement for ensuring the social and economic advancement of different sections of the population of Sikkim." But Mr Bhandari had no power unilaterally to change the electoral pattern. That remains the prerogative of Parliament. Since Mr Bhandari merely urged electoral reform, a right which every Indian citizen enjoys, this would be no ground to remove him. The governor clearly acted beyond the limits of his discretion to topple his chief minister, with whom he was daggers drawn. To have acted in concert with the Centre does not diminish his responsibility.

Mr P. Venkatasubbiah, minister of state for home affairs, claims that Mr Bhandari had lost his majority in the Sikkim Assembly. But is this issue to be decided by a minister from New Delhi or even by the governor? If indeed Mr Bhandari had lost his majority, that should have been demonstrated on the floor of the state legislature. Precisely because such a demonstration would have been difficult (if not impossible), the Centre decided to dismiss him and use the bait of office to wean away his followers. Mr Bhandari may have been accused of corruption. If this was a real issue, specific charges should have been framed and a prosecution launched. The option given to him to resign or face dismissal suggests that the corruption charge was not being seriously pressed. The truth is that Mr Bhandari's alleged corruption did not bother Mrs Gandhi as long as he was willing to toe her line. A former Congress (I) chief minister of Maharashtra, Mr A.R. Antulay, is even now facing a private suit on corruption charges, but Mrs Gandhi's first thought was to amend the law to shield him, and when that looked politically dangerous, her party promised all possible legal aid to him!

Mr Bhandari's dismissal is something of a "constitutional" coup. It will sharpen the ethnic divide in Sikkim and could lead to agitational politics of an undesirable kind. Destabilising states is no advertisement for a "government that works."

U.S. Envoy Hinton's Remarks on Relations Viewed

GF231831 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 9 May 84 p 4

[Text] The U.S. ambassador in Pakistan, Mr Deane R. Hinton, has surveyed the tenor of bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United States of America in a recent meeting at Karachi. The speech he made departed from the one his predecessor had made some time ago in one respect: Instead of indicating four points of discord, Mr. Hinton limited himself to two. The four points of discord or potential discord were: resistance on Pakistan's part to a recommended rapprochement with India, the failure on Pakistan's part to effectively stamp out the production and illegal export of narcotics like heroin, the delay in restoration of the democratic process in Pakistan, and development of the energy sector in Pakistan under a nuclear programme which the U.S. thought was actually directed at manufacturing nuclear weapons. Mr. Hinton has whittled the "objections" down to two: the misgiving about the nuclear programme persists, and the second objection is to Pakistan's perception of the U.S. policy in the Middle East. He has reminded us that the current equation is different from the one that held during the period when Pakistan was "aligned" through CENTO and SEATO. Now there is less alignment but more mutual understanding which defuses the threat of these isolated "differences" becoming irreconcilable.

The implication that the period of "alignment" bestowed on Pakistan some sort of special status is quickly overtaken by the fact that the period was characterised by vicissitudes caused by mutual expectation which were falsely grounded. CENTO had isolated Pakistan from the Middle East in general and the Islamic world in particular, which put a wrong face on the popular feelings in Pakistan about Israel and its policies in the Middle East. Unlike Iran and Turkey in the fifties, Pakistan had no official contacts with Israel and was the odd man out in the trilateral formation against "the communist threat." The way CENTO and SEATO died reflected not so much on the policies pursued by Pakistan but by the changing perspectives of America's own outlook in the region. A nonaligned Pakistan now has a better and a more accurately perceived relationship with the U.S., a relationship on which mutual trust and friendship can be built. One pillar of this permanent relationship is the preclusion of false expectations and a firm knowledge about each other's reactions to given situations. Within the parameters of this relationship, all agreements and concords are genuine because they emanate from a meeting of the minds, of self-interests. As the ambassador has pointed out, Pakistan's efforts at normalisation with India have to be looked upon with respect. No one can fault the progress made after the democratic debacle of 1979 towards representative government and the phased programme under which the democratic government would be restored. As for the Middle East issue, the divergence will persist, for Pakistan cannot affort to modify a stance which is based on objective conditions and lose the role of international leadership that Mr. Hinton has so admired in his speech. Similarly, the nuclear programme is more a desperate attempt at achieving survival into the next century when the traditional energy sources will deplete completely rather than an act of bravodo leading to the acquisition of an atomic bomb. A good part of the American opinion is convinced about it but certain lobbies are not, which is reflected in the statement made by the ambassador. What, however, is more important is that the Pakistan-U.S. relations have remained steady since 1947 and have not fluctuated beyond a certain tolerable degree. This steadiness is itself a guarantee against future misunderstandings, and it clearly denotes a constant undertow of mutual benefit which is really the linchpin of all state relations.

PRC To Provide Credit for Industrial Projects

BK221200 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] China has agreed to cooperate in establishing several important projects in Pakistan for which it will provide credit on favorable terms. This was stated by the federal finance minister, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, while talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this morning on his return from Beijing after attending the second session of the Pakistan-China Joint Committee on Trade, Economic Cooperation, Science, and Technology. He said they also agreed on balancing, modernization, and (?upgrading) of three important projects built by the Chinese in Pakistan, including the heavy mechanical complex, heavy forge and foundry, and heavy rebuild factory. Several new projects agreed for execution through bilateral cooperation include [word indistinct] industries based on the products of Pakistan Steel, exploration and exploitation of natural gas and coal resources in Pakistan, and the manufacture of soybean-based products.

Four Foreign Trawlers Taken Into Custody

BK231731 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The Pakistan Navy ships today took into custody four foreign trawlers for illegally fishing in Pakistan's fishing zone. These foreign trawlers were intercepted at a point 30 miles from Pakistan's coastline west of Karachi and handed over by the Pakistan Navy to the authorities concerned at the Karachi port.

Radio Pakistan's representative says licensed foreign trawlers can only fish in Pakistani waters beyond 35 miles from the coast. The action has been taken by the government to protect the interests of Pakistani fishermen.

Briefs

Telecommunications Satellite — Preliminary discussions on the reservation of the launching date for the Pakistan's telecommunication satellite to be placed in orbit some time in 1987-88 have been initiated. The chairman of Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission said in Karachi today that in choosing an agency to launch the telecommunication satellite, all possible options would be explored. He said the satellite design studies being carried out by Pakistani scientists and technicians were progressing well. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 20 May 84 BK]

BANGLADESH

Government Agrees To Increase Wages Nearly 80 Percent

BK221448 Hong Kong AFP in English 1437 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Dhaka, May 22 (AFP) — The military regime of Bangladesh, in a major concession to avert a strike which was due to begin today, has agreed to raise workers' wages by nearly 80 per cent. The increased wages will cost the public sector an additional 155 million dollars to pay one million workers, Labour Minister Air Vice Marshal Aminul Islam Khan told a press conference here today. He said that the wage hike "is going to be a big financial involvement" for Bangladesh, which is already financially hard pressed. But he brushed aside a suggestion that the government had yielded to the workers' demands out of nervousness.

The minister said that the agreement reached last night with the trade unions merely covered benefits and financial assistance which President Hussain Mohammad Ershad had conceded on earlier occasions. The labour minister said that the "agreement is a great step to improve workers conditions and we are simply going in line with the International Labour Organisation (ILO). We are not giving anything new or additional benefits."

The agreement will not be binding on the private sector workers, under which there are another one million workers. But the labour minister said he hoped that private sector employers would follow suit. However, private sector employers said that they did not have to abide by the government agreement, because only a wage commission could decide the matter.

Under the agreement, the minimum monthly wage of an industrial worker is to be increased from 270 taka (10.80 dollars) to 460 taka (18.50 dollars) from July.

Agreement With Workers Council

BK221326 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 22 May 84

[Excerpt] The Sramik Karmachari Oikyo Parishad [Workers Employees Joint Council] has called off its proposed 48-hour strike scheduled for today and tomorrow in view of an agreement between the government and the Oikyo Parishad leaders on the Parishad's 5-point demands. The agreement was signed at the prime minister's secretariat last night following prolonged negotiations between the government and the representatives of the Parishad and the leaders of the Jana Sadhin [People's Liberation] Trade Union Federation.

Negotiations on the 5-point demands of the Oikyo Parishad and the 11-point demands of the Jana Sadhin Trade Union Federation were held in phases with the president, the prime minister, and the labor and manpower minister.

NEPAL

Briefs

Envoys Present Credentials — His majesty the king received credentials from the ambassador of France, Lionel de Warren; ambassador of Laos, Sali Khamsi; ambassador of Netherlands, Andriaan van der Willigen; and ambassador of Canada, William T. Warden, at separate special functions held at Narayanhaty Royal Palace on 4 May afternoon. [Excerpt] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 5 May 84 p 1 BK]

Bhutanese Envoy Named — Mr Om Pradhan has been appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the Kingdom of Nepal, according to a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued here 29 April. Mr Pradhan will reside in New Delhi. [Excerpt] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 30 Apr 84 p 1 BK]

SRI LANKA

Police Chief Says 500 Tamil Militants in India

BK231213 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] The Tamil Nadu police director general, (K. Mohandas), has told REUTER in Madras that there are about 500 militant Sri Lankan Tamils in India.

REUTER in a story dispatched from Madras yesterday by their correspondent, (Manoj Manoharan), has described the headquarters in exile of the Sri Lankan separatist group, which claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of the American couple in Jaffna. According to this correspondent, in the sitting room of this house there were posters of Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Joseph Stalin, and Lenin. Shelves were stacked with Marxist literature, including three bulky volumes of Karl Marx' *DAS KAPITAL*. A bearded youth, who went by the name of Dawson, was there taping an official radio broadcast from Colombo. Dawson described himself as as a tepid goat or bait. He was the only occupant of the house. Most of his comrades in the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front [EPRLF] had either gone into hiding or had been rounded up by Indian police. The EPRLF is an umbrella organization of the Tamil separatists. It has a military wing — the People's Liberation Army — which claimed responsibility for the kidnapping.

He told REUTER that EPRLF was one of the five major separatist groups based in Madras with members in arms against the Sri Lankan Government. A booklet decorated with a yellow star on a red background outlined the EPRLF's links with overseas groups. It said that one of its front organizations — the General Union of Eelam Students — had branches in India, Burma, Canada, Britain, West Germany, and Switzerland.

Syrian Vice President Khaddam Visits Tehran

Arrival Statement

JN231854 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' arrived in Tehran this afternoon. They were received at Tehran airport by Mostafa Mir-Salim, assistant to Iranian President Khamene'i; Aqazadeh, assistant to the prime minister and minister of state for executive affairs; Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs; a number of Iranian officials; the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tehran and embassy staff; and members of the Arab and Islamic diplomatic corps in Tehran.

Upon his arrival, Khaddam made a statement in which he said that he carries a message to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i from President Hafiz al-Asad on the latest developments in the Gulf region and the negative effects that the current situation might produce. He added that this situation requires consultations between President al-Asad and President Khamene'i. He also stressed that all concerned parties should act in order to prevent any development in the current situation that will serve imperialism and Zionism.

Asked about Syria's position toward Rashid Karami's government in Lebanon, Khaddam said: Karami is one of the Lebanese nationalist figures who have contributed scientifically and effectively to bolstering accord in Lebanon, and this government is a result of agreements between the warring Lebanese factions which reached some principles for halting the civil war and bloodshed, restoring security and peace in Lebanon, and confronting the Zionist aggression. Concluding his statement, Khaddam expressed his hope that Karami's government will realize these objectives.

Khamene'i Receives Delegation

LD232046 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA — Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam handed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to President 'Ali Khamene'i of the Islamic Republic this evening.

During the meeting, Khaddam said his country had supported and would continue to support the Islamic Republic in the Iraqi-imposed war. He stressed that imperialism was trying to intervene and spread the war into the Persian Gulf.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar', Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati, as well as a number of other high-ranking Iranian officials were present in the meeting.

The Syrian vice-president and foreign minister arrived here this afternoon.

Khaddam Sees Velayati, Departs

LD241119 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] This morning Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syria's first vice president, met with Mr Velayati, our country's minister of foreign affairs. During the meeting, also attended by Mr Faruq Shar', Syria's minister of foreign affairs, the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region were studied and methods of confronting plots by imperialism and Zionism in the region were discussed.

During the meeting Mr Khaddam, while condemning the Iraqi ruling regime for beginning the war and for its efforts to continue and expand it to other countries in the region, once again declared the Syrian Government's support for the just and lawful positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stressing: During Iraq's imposed war on Iran we have always been and will be on the side of Iran. Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syria's first vice president, who arrived in Tehran yesterday, handed a message from Mr Hafiz al-Asad, the president of that country, to Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, our country's president, and met with high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He left Tehran this afternoon.

During his departure from Tehran Mr Khaddam was seen off by Mr Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, and Mr Aqazadeh, minister of state for executive affairs. In an interview prior to leaving Tehran, in which he stressed Iran's and Syria's concerted positions, he said: During my meetings with Iranian political officials, talks were held on the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region and the investigation of means for preventing the exacerbation of these developments in the region in order to prevent the expansion of the war, and our positions were identical in this respect. He also added: Syria's positions with regard to the Iran-Iraq war have been steadfast and clear right from the day of its inception.

Majlis Decision on Syrian Oil, Debt Payments Detailed

LD231508 Tehran IRNA in English 1448 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May, 23, IRNA — The Majlis today approved the bill concerning sale and delivery of free oil to the Syrian Government and also rescheduling of debts of the Syrian Government to the Islamic Republic of Iran resulting from the April 4, 1983 agreement.

Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati presented the bill to the Majlis Tuesday and requested that the deputies give priority in discussing the bill. The bill was debated in the open session of the Majlis, before it was approved.

Velayati, who was present in the session today said that the Syrian Government, like that of the Islamic Republic of Iran, had major disputes with the Iraqi regime. Therefore, he added, "We have the responsibility to aid such a government in its path, especially at a time when the reactionary governments of the region, because of Syria's refusal to come to an agreement with the Iraqi regime, have cut off their aid to Syria."

Furthermore, the foreign minister told the Majlis deputies that the Syrian Government was the only country in the front line of the campaign against the Zionist regime. Consequently, he went on, "We must support Syria in its struggle against the U.S., Israel, and Iraq, which is the correct path."

The minister of oil, Mohammad Gharazi, also talked about the bill, which was preceded by the taking of votes.

According to the bill the Oil Ministry is allowed to sign an agreement with the Syrian Government for sale of five million tons of crude oil with a 2.5 dollars discount a barrel from the official price, for a period of twelve months. Furthermore, the bill allows the Oil Ministry to deliver one million tons of crude free of charge, also for a period of twelve months.

On rescheduling of the Syrian debts to Iran, resulting from the April 4, 1983 agreement, the bill stated that 493 million dollars of the debts would be paid in installments of 20 million dollars beginning May 1985.

The remaining 500 million dollars of the debts would be in 12 installments in three-month intervals, for a period of three years, beginning May 1989.

Pakistani Interior Minister Leads Delegation Visit

Nateq-Nuri Welcomes Haroon

LD230357 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA — Minister of Interior of Pakistan Mahmud Haroon, heading a five-man delegation, arrived in Tehran Tuesday and was welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, Foreign Ministry political deputy Hoseyn Shaykh ol-Eslam, and Pakistan's ambassador in Iran, Bashir Khan Babar.

Mahmud Haroon, after his arrival in Tehran, announced that during his stay he would discuss issues of mutual interest with Iranian officials, Iran-Pakistan relations, border issues, and campaign against narcotics smuggling.

Nateq-Nuri announced that the arrangement for the meeting was made last year when an Iranian Interior Ministry delegation visited Pakistan. He added that Iran and Pakistan would follow-up previous talks concerning border issues and other issues related to their ministries.

The Pakistani delegation is also scheduled to meet President 'Ali Khamene'i, Prime Minister Musavi, and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Meeting With Velayati

LD231816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Continuing his meetings with Iranian officials, the interior minister of Pakistan this afternoon met and conferred with our Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati. Referring to the war imposed by Iraq on Iran and the new acts of warmongering carried out by the Iraqi Ba'thist regime in attacking oil tankers in the Persian Gulf in order to drag America to the region, Mr Velayati emphasized: While being ready to confront the acts of adventurism by the Iraqi regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran, more than any other country, wants to preserve and maintain security and freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf.

Mr Velayati, in another part of his speech, referred to the friendly relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and neighboring countries, in particular Pakistan, and said: In Iran's foreign policy, our Muslim neighbors enjoy a special priority, and this policy has been followed explicitly since after the revolution.

Referring to the Afghanistan issue, our country's foreign affairs minister then hoped that the world's Muslims would strengthen the defense of the ideals of the oppressed people of Afghanistan and would help the Afghan refugees, who are the victims of the Soviet Union's aggression. The Pakistani interior minister emphasized the need for unity amongst Muslims and hoped that relations between the two countries would expand.

Interior Ministers Meet

LD240922 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA — The visiting Pakistani Minister of Interior Mahmud Haroon met and conferred with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri Wednesday. Issues of mutual interest of Iran and Pakistan were topics of their talks during the meeting.

The Pakistani minister said that Iran and Pakistan were two brotherly and Muslim countries and enjoyed good relations.

The Iranian minister of interior talked about Saddam's crimes in the Persian Gulf, adding that in Iraqi missile attacks against oil tankers in the Persian Gulf, the U.S. hand was quite obvious. He said that the Iranian nation had proved all along that it was concerned about the welfare of the region during the four years of the war, noting too that it is strong enough and is ready to fight directly with U.S. Marines if necessary. Nateq-Nuri, quoting heads of the country, said that "if the Persian Gulf was not safe for Iran then it would not be safe for others." He added that Iran would not let others interfere in the Persian Gulf, and announced that "we could ensure the security of the Persian Gulf and there was no need for others."

Mr. Haroon expressed hope that peace would be established in the region and all Islamic countries could take measures in their own interests.

Finance Minister Returns From Vienna OPEC Talks

LD240928 Tehran IRNA in English 0814 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA — Minister of Economics and Finance Hoseyn Namazi, who led an Iranian delegation to the OPEC Fund ministerial meeting in Vienna, returned to Tehran Wednesday.

Talking to IRNA, Namazi said that Iran is the second largest contributor to the Fund. It has paid 139 million dollars into it.

He said that discussed at the meeting was its annual report, the fund accounts, as well as proposals concerning increasing the capital of the fund, which he said was agreed by members was not possible at the present time due to financial difficulties of member states.

Namazi left Tehran for Vienna on May 21.

U.S. Said To Secretly Appoint Ambassador to Iraq
GF231120 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] David Newton, the political adviser of the U.S. Embassy in Jidda, has been secretly appointed U.S. ambassador in Iraq. Reliable sources said that Newton will leave for Baghdad during the next week. The decision to establish diplomatic relations between Iraq and the United States was made during Rumsfeld's visit to Saudi Arabia. The Saudi Government played the role of the mediator in this matter. Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi had prior knowledge of this issue.

Kuwait Expels 29, Continuing 'Antagonistic' Policies
GF231522 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] The Government of Kuwait in continuing its antagonistic policies has expelled another 29 Iranian workers from Kuwait.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, this group arrived by sea yesterday in Bushehr and was received at the camp set up for refugees.

It should be noted here that these Iranians, before their expulsion, had suffered long periods of confinement and had been subjected to beatings by the Kuwaiti police.

Khamene'i: Country's Position in Region 'Strong'
LD231626 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran is in a strong political position in the region, said President 'Ali Khamene'i here today.

Speaking at seminar of Friday prayers leaders of the Tehran Province, the president discussed the implications of the adventuristic policies the Ba'thist regime of Iraq has been pursuing in the Persian Gulf.

The seminar, which is the first gathering of the province's Friday prayers leaders, started work today.

U.S. 'Ordering' Security Council To Side With Iraq
LD240830 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA — The Iraqi dictator, Saddam Husayn, Wednesday reiterated that Iraq would continue its adventurism in the Persian Gulf to further disturb security in the region. He stressed that Iraq would carry out further attacks on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf with no exception.

Saddam, speaking to a group of personnel of his defeated army, said that the Baghdad regime would pay no attention to the request of international organisations and other countries to not spread the war in the Persian Gulf.

He indirectly reasoned Iraq's adventurism in the Persian Gulf due to the inability of his forces to confront Islamic combatants of Iran in war fronts.

Saddam's confessions are made at a time when reactionary Arab states consider Iran responsible for the creation of crisis in the Persian Gulf. They are bringing their case before the U.N. Security Council.

It is predicted that in case the issue is discussed at the Security Council, regardless of Saddam's vivid confession, the Council would accuse Iran of disturbing security in the Persian Gulf and would, on the orders of the United States, vote in the favour of the Baghdad regime.

Reagan's Public, Private Remarks on Gulf Differ
GF240510 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 May 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The conflicting views in the White House are further evidence of the failure of U.S. policy to control the current crisis in the Persian Gulf region. Despite the fact that the crisis began as an inspiration from Washington and that the fire of war in the oil regions was begun by the Ba'thist rulers in Iraq, it was still an arrogant U.S. plot. This has not hindered the crisis from reaching such a level that Washington has become unable to take a serious stand. It only asks its allies in Baghdad to stop their aggressive practices [words indistinct]

The whole world knows that these rulers are the ones who caused the crisis.

In his press conference this morning, President Reagan announced that the crisis in the Gulf has reached a point which may force the United States to act to ensure the safety of navigation in the Gulf, but no option exists other than diplomacy. This statement contadicts what he stated in his private message to Saudi King Fahd in which he affirmed U.S. determination to intervene to ensure the safety of oil tankers if the Gulf countries asked for it. This statement is considered the beginning of U.S. intervention, but how and when? This is the question which the U.S. Administration until now has not been able to answer.

This has confirmed the views of some observers, who explained Reagan's message to Fahd as bringing comfort to the souls of the region's leaders. Washington is so far unable to implement any military action to control the situation in the Persian Gulf. If some of these rulers found themselves in need for someone to comfort them, it is better for them not to wonder about this relief coming from Washington. Are they able to attain today what they are longing for, such as peace, security, and stability? [words indistinct] the aid to the aggressors. They abandoned their [words indistinct] to grind every sinful aggressor.

Neighboring Gulf States Harbor 'Explosive Situation'
LD221456 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 22 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] "Iraq, the Supplier of Oil to Israel" is the lead article of *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI*:

The 44-month-old Iraqi war against the Islamic Republic is gradually entering a new phase; for the sworn enemies of the Islamic Revolution are trying to transfer the hotbed of crisis from inside the Iraqi territory to the Persian Gulf waters. The main advantage of this act is that after the fall of Baghdad, the enemies of Islam would still have a pretext to perpetuate the crisis in the region. Indeed, why is it that the Arab reactionaries are not prepared to accept realities? Is it evidence of the royal courts' will in the region? Or does it attest to the fact that it is not they who make decisions, that those who make the real decisions are the same ones who wish to perpetuate crises in the region?

From the very first day of the war, the Baghdad regime declared that its mission was summed up in confronting the Islamic Revolution; it has so far spared no efforts to achieve this. To understand why the Iraqi Ba'thists initiated the war and received support from Arab reactionaries, one must assess the peculiarities of the Islamic Revolution's foreign policy. The main characteristics of the Islamic Republic's Middle East policy are summed up in two factors: first, to awaken Muslim nations and the unity amongst Muslims; secondly, liberation of occupied Palestine. It is to dissuade the Islamic revolution from achieving these two strategic objectives that Arab reactionaries and their spearhead, Iraq, have embarked upon a confrontation against the Islamic revolution.

However, it must be extremely tortuous to the Arab reactionaries to realize that it is not advantageous to confront the Iranian nation that holds Islam's sword. The more the Arab reactionaries display their sensitivity to the expansion of Islam, the more they would reveal their main weakness to Muslim nations. Henceforth there would be no need to export the revolution, for Muslim nations know more or less how to capitalize on their governments' weaknesses, particularly where the interests of Islam are concerned.

The more the Arab governments continue their attempts to foil Islam, the more they demonstrate their desire to see the inner collapse of their systems; for struggle against an anti-Islamic government is a greater motivation amongst Muslim nations, although the region's [royal] courts will never be able to dare to assert their existence openly against Islam and the Islamic revolution. However, one single mistake on their part within this context will only need a telling blow to be dealt at their most sensitive vital point.

A limited war in the Persian Gulf is meaningless. Consequently, it is not worth it for the Arab reactionaries to lose everything in playing with fire. It is either a secure Persian Gulf or, should a war start there, may culminate in a complete settlement of the issue and the uprooting of all factors creating crises in the region. This is not a prophesy; it is a fact which can be easily understood by the region's shahs and courts, if they manage to take a break from their hedonism — that any conflict in the Persian Gulf would not be interpreted as a new development; rather, that nations would consider it as an extension of the 44-month war between the enemies of Islam and the Islamic revolution.

Perhaps the littoral amirates in the Persian Gulf are not adequately familiar with international events. However, one cannot accept that they are also unaware of the explosive domestic situations in their countries. The various strips of gunpowder are waiting for sparks; it is unwise for the governments in the Persian Gulf littoral states to contribute to escalation of war against the Islamic Revolution. Everything is clear: The Baghdad regime has already revealed itself and has entered into direct negotiations with Israel. Israel has officially announced its readiness to provide an oil pipeline to Iraq. In return, the Baghdad regime has made favorable promises to supply the required oil to the strategic enemy of Arabs and Muslims. What this means is that should Iraq be given the opportunity [passage indistinct]

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,735
LD231752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 May 84

[Communique No 1,735 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours on the border fronts of Piranshahr, Sar Dasht, Hajj 'Umran, Marivan, and Panjwin, Islam's combatants opened fire on the enemy's positions and assembly points and supply routes and while destroying part of the enemy's installations and fortifications killed 10 of the Saddamists.

On the Ilam border fronts an exchange of fire continued; its intensity was greater in the Sumar region. Our vigilant combatants reconnoitered an enemy patrol group in the (Sonabha) region and opened fire on them, and as a result the Iraqi servicemen were forced to flee. Moreover, our forces set ablaze and destroyed an enemy ammunition depot. On the Arvand Rud front, by opening heavy fire Islam's combatants disrupted the engineering and fighting activities of the enemy and his motor traffic on the Fao-Basra axis and destroyed one of his ammunition dumps and eight trenches of various types.

Yesterday as a result of opening of long-range enemy weapons on Abadan's populated areas, seven houses and five shops were damaged and two fires were started in the city.

Abadan, Khorramshahr Bombarded

LD231902 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Ahvaz, May 23, IRNA — The southern port city of Abadan was bombarded by the Iraqi long-range artillery units over the past 24 hours martyring one civilian and wounding four others. The bombardment also destroyed seven houses and five shops and caused fire in two sectors.

Meanwhile the port city of Khorramshahr, west of Abadan, was also under sporadic fire of the enemy causing some material damage.

Revolution Committee Guards Affirm Military Readiness

LD231302 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] According to an IRNA report, the Guards of the Islamic Revolution Committees in a maneuver today declared their military readiness for a possible fight against world arrogance's adventures in the Persian Gulf. During this maneuver, which started at 0900 from eight separate points toward the Majlis, the armed Guards of the Islamic Revolution Committees passed through the streets of Tehran in their vehicles. As the guards were going past — carrying banners with slogans such as: Death to America, Death to France, We will trample on America, and America cannot do anything — groups of people gathered on both sides of the street, and shouting: God is Great, declared their support for the Committee Guards. According to this report a group of the people of Tehran accompanied the guards in their own motorcycles and cars. When the Guards participating in the ceremonies gathered in front of the Majlis, the Majlis deputies attended the gathering and presenting flowers thanked them for their declaration of readiness to confront world arrogance in the Persian Gulf.

On behalf of the forces participating in the maneuver, one of the Guards, addressing the Majlis deputies, said: The Islamic Revolution Committee Guards declare their readiness for voluntary martyrdom in the fight against the enemies of Islam, especially the world-devouring America and its lackeys in the Persian Gulf.

The report states that the Islamic Revolution Committees' readiness maneuver, which included the motorized columns of the Committee Guards passing through Tehran's southern streets, lasted 4 hours.

IRGC Stresses Readiness for Confrontation

LD231224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 May 84

[Excerpts] Following the conspiracies of world arrogance to create insecurity in the Persian Gulf, the following message was issued by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps:

With the expansion of the blasphemy-crushing waves of the sacred Islamic revolution and the victories of the self-sacrificing force of monotheism in the battlefronts, which have placed the Zionist regime ruling over Iraq on the verge of collapse, criminal America in collaboration with the Zionists ruling Iraq and other reactionary regimes of the region are trying to create a critical situation in the Persian Gulf. Their aim is to drag the war to that region so that, according to their futile imagination, they can prepare for intervention by the superpowers in order to drag beloved Islam and the glorious Islamic revolution to destruction.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] again announces its total readiness to make use of defensive capabilities and of the fighting forces, including the self-sacrificing Guards and members of the basij [mobilization] forces of the IRGC under the command of the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and great leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni. The Guards Corps informs the Muslim and martyr-nurturing nation that the Guards and basij members of the IRGC will take part in an armed march throughout the country from the IRGC bases to the premises of politicoreligious Friday prayers on Friday 25 May in order to announce their readiness for confrontation against any aggressive force which might intend to hatch a plot and start a conflagration in the Persian Gulf. In addition, they will demonstrate their fighting capability, based upon faith, for continuing the war in the southern and western fronts of our country and for confronting the enemies of the Islamic revolution in any other region.

IRGC To Stage Maneuvers

GF240800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] The Islamic Republic Guards Corps District 10 has asked all the forces of the (Labbayk Ya) Khomeyni plan which belong to the divisions and brigades of District 10 of the Al-Quds Headquarters to get ready to participate in a magnificent maneuver tomorrow, Friday. They should report for duty at their bases and mobilization posts.

Imam Thwarts 'Weakening' of Council of Guardians

LD211348 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The Council for Coordinating Islamic Propaganda has put out a statement referring to the fact that certain shameful lone voices have recently sought to weaken the Council of Guardians, which guarantees the validity of Majlis enactments, but that these efforts were thwarted by the sagacity of the imam of the nation. The statement expresses the council's support for the Council of Guardians and asks the ever alert people to foil these plots with increased vigilance.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Plasma Physics Seminar

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[Text] A seminar on the application of plasma physics in industry started this morning in the presence of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, at the research center of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran.

At the opening ceremony, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly explained the obstacles and difficulties raised by industrial countries in the way of the developing countries which need new industries. He said: If a revolutionary wants to be successful he must be able to coordinate his political, economic, scientific, cultural, and military movements and to organize and expand them.

Referring to the tricks used by colonialist countries to attract the brains of developing countries, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly said: Those who worry about the revolution and the country must prepare themselves for a continuous holy war and must reduce their personal expectations; they must accept the fact that a generation must make sacrifices in order for future generations to live independently.

Addressing Iranian scientists, he said: The value of a scientist's work is increased when he puts his knowledge at the service of the country's deprived people and his holy ideal. The results of your work in Iran will be used by your own nation. Your essential work for the nation is that you should tolerate difficulties and through your efforts make the situation such that our country can stand on its own feet.

According to a report by our correspondent, in the first session on the application of plasma physics in industry the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said in a report on this organization's activity: The shah's programs for atomic industries in Iran was like an injection which could not be accepted by the body. Because of these overly ambitious programs, after the victory of the revolution we were faced with a great problem in connection with the atomic industries. In this connection, in the process of canceling unnecessary programs, we noticed that it was imperialism's aim to eliminate all nuclear projects in this country. But with God's help and thanks to the strong determination and willpower and scientific potentials of our colleagues we have managed to have a specific program on the country's nuclear industries.

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization said: With God's help our program is to complete and prepare for commissioning the first unit of the Bushehr atomic power station. We have been very successful in discoving uranium, so much so that from this point of view our country is one of the richest countries in the Middle East.

He added: At present we are working in six regions in the country. The semi-industrial fuel plant, which has been fully completed by the Iranian brothers, is in its final stages. Regarding protection against radiation we are covering the entire area of the country.

He said: The use of radioisotopes in agriculture and medicine has priority. We consider research in nuclear fields as one of our main tasks. In spite of all-round foreign propaganda, the experts of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran have proved that they are capable of following nuclear issues, an example of which is the convening of this seminar on plasma physics.

About 300 Iranian experts, scientists and industrialists, and 8 international senior officials and researchers from the International Atomic Agency, India, the PRC, the FRG, and GRD will take part in the seminar, which will last 4 days. In these sessions about 75 scientific papers will be submitted on the use of advanced techniques resulting from research into plasma physics in the country's various industries, including the electronic, metallurgical, nutrition, medical, and defense industries.

Our correspondent also reports that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, visited the laboratory of the Plasma Physics Department in the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran today. During the visit a report was submitted to the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly on the activity of the Atomic Energy Organization and the Plasma Physics Department.

Nateq-Nuri Tells Red Crescent Leaders of 'Plots'

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[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA — The five-day meeting of managers of the Red Crescent Society of Iran started work here Monday with a speech delivered by Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

Praising the outstanding role the Red Crescent Society played in helping victims of catastrophes, the interior minister called on them to be prepared to deal with any crisis brought about by imperialism against Muslim people of Iran.

Referring to the recent conspiracy of international imperialism in the Persian Gulf region, Nateq-Nuri stressed that the Iranian people, during the Islamic revolution, had constantly safeguarded the prestige and sovereignty of their Islamic homeland.

Therefore, he added, Iranians would once again resist against such a plot, noting that officials of the Islamic Republic's institutions should be ready to materialise demands of the people.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ghayuri, Imam Khomeyni's representative at the society and the society's head Dr. Vahid Dastgerdi spoke on its activities and on the necessity of the preservation of unity.